

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD M.; KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: RADIO/TV NEWS SURVEY, JUNE 15, 1974

1. MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO ("FIRST-LINE REPORT") --
AMERICAN NUCLEAR REACTORS GOING TO THE ME. TRUE TO THE
TRADITION OF NIXON DIPLOMACY, ESPECIALLY DURING PRESIDENTIAL
TOURS OF ANY PART OF THE WORLD, THERE HAS TO BE A SURPRISE.
AND YESTERDAY, BEFORE THE PRESIDENT LEFT EGYPT AFTER A
SUCCESSFUL VISIT -- IF SUCCESS CAN BE MEASURED BY STREET
CROWDS, FORGETTING FOR THE MOMENT THAT STREET CROWDS ARE THE
EASIEST THINGS TO ORDER UP IN AN AUTHORITARIAN SOCIETY --
PRESIDENTS NIXON AND SADAT SIGNED A DECLARATION OF COMMON
PRINCIPLES WHICH NIXON HAS MISTAKENLY CALLED A TREATY AGREE-
MENT, WHICH CONTAINED THIS TRIP'S SURPRISE. AN AMERICAN
PLEDGE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD GIVE EGYPT
AND SOON ISRAEL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. WHEN THE AGREEMENTS
ARE NEGOTIATED THESE NUCLEAR PLANTS CONTAINING NUCLEAR RE-
ACTORS WILL BE THE FIRST SUCH INTRODUCED INTO THE ME. WHY?
WHY WAS IT CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR THE US TO BECOME THE
PROVIDER OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO COUNTRIES STILL LOCKED IN
BASIC HOSTILITIES AFTER FOUR WARS IN 25 YEARS? ONE EXPLA-
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NATION IS THAT LAST JANUARY, DURING SECRETARY OF STATE KIS-

SINGER'S EFFORT TO ARRANGE A DISAGREEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL THE AMERICAN NEGOTIATOR NEEDED LEVERAGE. SADAT SENSED THIS AND REQUESTED WHAT HE COULD NOT GET FROM RUSSIA; NAMELY, NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS. THE RUSSIANS HAD PROVIDED A RESEARCH REACTOR BUT NOT A POWER ONE. KISSINGER AGREED IN PRINCIPLE. IN LATE APRIL A FIVE-MAN EGYPTIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE, SECRETLY; A DEAL WAS QUICKLY MADE THOUGH NOT FORMALLY, THOUGH NOT CONCLUDED UNTIL RECENT WEEKS, TIMED APPARENTLY FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AN ISRAELI DELEGATION ARRIVED -- SAME PURPOSE: TO ARRANGE TO GET OR BUY NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS. THE RHETORIC ACCOMPANYING SUCH TRANSACTIONS IS ALWAYS THAT THE BUYER WANTS THESE REACTORS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND ECONOMIC PURSUITS. THE SELLERS WANT THE BUSINESS, NOT FOR PROFITS, NOT FOR DIPLOMATIC LEVERAGE, THEY INSIST; ONLY FOR HELPING LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DEVELOP. ANOTHER EXPLANATION WHY THE DEAL WAS MADE WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT WANTED SOMETHING DRAMATIC TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING HIS TRIP THROUGH THE AREA. HE STARTS TODAY IN SAUDI ARABIA, THEN GOES ON TO SYRIA AND THIS NUCLEAR ARRANGEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT FIT THE BILL -- DRAMATIC, CONTROVERSIAL AND SHOWING BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT THE PRESIDENT IS IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN POLICY. STILL ANOTHER EXPLANATION, RATHER CYNICAL, IS THAT IF THE US DID NOT PROVIDE THESE REACTORS, OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES WOULD. NONE OF THESE EXPLANATIONS HAS REALLY SATISFIED EVERYONE, BUT THAT IS NOT NEW. THE NET EFFECT, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE US WILL SOON BE SENDING THESE REACTORS INTO A HIGHLY VOLATILE PART OF THE WORLD, PERHAPS IN THE PROCESS ENCOURAGING FANATICS ON EITHER SIDE TO GO NUCLEAR IN PURSUIT EITHER OF LOST LAND OR FADING SECURITY. NOT TOO LONG AGO INDIA WENT NUCLEAR AND PREDICTABLY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS ALL FOR PEACE. WHAT IS TO STOP OTHERS FROM GOING THE SAME ROUTE AND TURNING THE THIRD WORLD INTO A NUCLEAR MERRY-TO-ROUND, EACH COUNTRY SEEKING NATIONAL GLORY AND THE IMPOVERISHING BUSINESS OF BUILDING NUCLEAR POWER? THIS IS ALL SUPPOSED TO BE HARD-HEADED DIPLOMACY -- THE US CAPITALIZING ON KISSINGER'S DISENGAGEMENT DIPLOMACY TO ELBOW THE RUSSIANS OUT OF THEIR FORMERLY PREEMINENT POSITION IN THE AREA AND DOING ALL OF

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THIS IN HIGHLY DRAMATIC FASHION. THERE IS NO RULE, HOWEVER, THAT TODAY'S HEADLINE IS TOMORROW'S WISDOM.

2. JAMES ANDERSON, GROUP W NEWS -- A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IS ASKED "WHAT GUARANTEE IS THERE THAT THE EGYPTIANS WON'T USE THEIR US-SUPPLIED REACTOR TO PRODUCE AN ATOMIC DEVICE, AS THE INDIANS DID WITH THEIR CANADIAN POWER PLANT?" THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ANSWERS, "THE

DIFFERENCE IS THAT CANADA HAD NO SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT WITH THE INDIANS . . . AT LEAST THE INDIANS DIDN'T THINK THEY HAD." THE US-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT, WHICH IS STILL BEING FORMED, WOULD HAVE SUCH SAFEGUARDS AGAINST MILITARY USE . . . INCLUDING PERIODIC INSPECTIONS BY AMERICAN AND

OTHER TECHNICIANS. WHAT THEN WOULD PREVENT THE EGYPTIANS -- OR THE ISRAELIS, WHO WILL SOON BE GETTING A SIMILAR AGREEMENT -- FROM SIMPLY THROWING THE ATOMIC INSPECTORS OUT OF THE COUNTRY? THEN THE CONTROLLING ELEMENT WOULD BE THE AMERICAN SUPPLY OF FUEL TO KEEP THE REACTOR GOING, BUT THERE ARE OTHER SOURCES FOR THAT FUEL, AND THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE OTHER SOURCES BY THE TIME THE REACTORS ARE GOING SOME EIGHT YEARS FROM NOW.

THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NUCLEAR POWER FOR A DEVELOPING NATION. NUCLEAR POWER, AT THIS STAGE, IS EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF THE INVESTMENT AND IN TERMS OF THE ELECTRICITY THAT HAS TO BE USED TO PRODUCE THE FUEL. THIS QUESTION IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE ARAB WORLD WHICH HAS AN ALMOST LIMITLESS SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM WHICH IS RELATIVELY CHEAP.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS THAT STUDIES HAVE BEEN MADE SHOWING THAT THE REACTOR IS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE FOR EGYPT AND ISRAEL, BUT THIS HAS BEEN SO FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WHAT HAS NOT BEEN SO IS THAT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION APPARENTLY REQUIRED A DRAMATIC ACT OF FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF ANWAR SADAT, AND THAT POLITICAL SITUATION IS TINGED WITH PRESIDENT NIXON'S DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS THE DESIRE TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN A MODERATE LEADER IN THE ARAB WORLD.

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